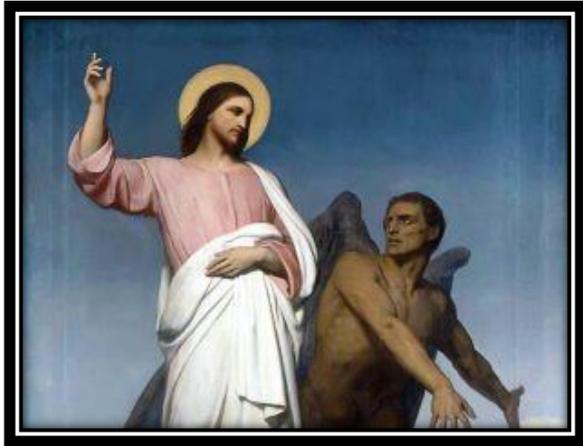


## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

### TIME

31<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The King's Authority:



Last week, Jesus announced the kingdom of God is at hand. This week, in mighty words and deeds, He exercises His dominion—asserting royal authority over the ruler of this world, Satan.

Notice that today's events take place on the sabbath. The sabbath was to be an everlasting sign—both of God's covenant love for His creation, and His deliverance of His covenant people, Israel, from slavery.

On this sabbath, Jesus signals a new creation—that the Holy One has come to purify His people and deliver the world from evil.

“With an unclean spirit” is biblical language for a man possessed by a demon, Satan being the prince of demons.

The demons' question: “What have you to do with us?” is often used in Old Testament scenes of combat and judgment.

And as God by His Word “rebuked” the forces of chaos in creating the world, and again rebuked the Red Sea so the Israelites could make their exodus, Mark uses the same word to describe Jesus rebuking the demons.

Jesus is the prophet foretold by Moses in today's First Reading. Though He has authority over heaven and earth (, He becomes one of our own kinsmen.

He comes to rebuke the forces of evil and chaos—not only in the world, but in our lives. He wants to make us holy in body and spirit, as Paul says in today's Epistle.

## BISHOP PAUL'S MESSAGE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2021

Ethnic minorities have suffered disproportionately from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating a systemic problem with racial injustice in our society.

This was dramatically brought home with the brutal killing of George Floyd and the reaction it provoked. As Pope Francis reflects: 'instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think.'

These shameful reminders of racism demand meaningful action to confront and dismantle sinful structures of injustice. Our brother Bishops in the USA remind us that: 'all of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur.'

Racism is a sin and a violation of human dignity in which we are all complicit. As Catholics we need to acknowledge and confront our own failings, as individuals and as a Church.

Every single one of our parishes, schools and organisations has a responsibility to actively practise anti-racism in all aspects of our mission.

We need to address the lack of visible diversity at every level, so that people can see themselves, their race, their culture and their history in the Church's life.

We need to engage suppliers and businesses from all parts of the community, seeking out those which promote diversity and inclusivity.

Most importantly we need to actively invite people from different ethnic communities to share their experiences and genuinely listen to their voices, however challenging this may be.

It is not enough to simply denounce racism. This is a time to act. In the words of the Holy Father: 'This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. God asks us to dare to create something new.'

Resources and Information

Racial Justice Sunday takes place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. The theme is 'A Time to Act'.

More information and resources are available on the [Racial Justice Sunday section](#) of the Bishops' Conference website.

## **HARVESTERS MEN'S VIRTUAL MEET UP - 9, 16, 23 March 2021**

This year the Harvesters Men's Weekend has become the Harvesters Men's Evenings. Over the course of three Tuesday evenings (9th March, 16th March and 23rd March), we will be exploring and unpacking the theme: "Empowered to Serve". There will be uplifting Praise and Worship, engaging speakers and the usual small group time in which to journey, share and delve deeper into the talks with other men from across the country. This is a free event with no obligation. You can join one or all of the sessions. Go on give it a try! To register for the event please follow this link <http://harvesters.org.uk/#about>

## **BOOKING IN FOR MASS**

For all services in church you will need to book in online. If the mass is full you cannot use the sign in book at the back of church.

## **PARISH MASS ON-LINE**

Fr. Denis is still celebrating mass online, every Saturday night 6.30pm vigil mass, & Wednesday morning mass at 10am, which is available through the parish Facebook page:

**Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and  
St Augustine of Canterbury.**

For more information please go to the parish website page

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock>

Email address: [Baldock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:Baldock@rcdow.org.uk)

Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm Vigil Mass	Mass online Yves & Veronique Bonnery RIP
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Racial Justice Sunday Joan Walker RIP Robert Karvick RIP
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	7pm	
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	No mass in church	The Presentation of The Lord
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore Archbishops of Canterbury
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	No mass in church	
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>		St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

*Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered.*

**The Wednesday Word is now available on this link page:**

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

**ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL** is our Catholic Parish Primary School. Please contact the Head teacher, Thomas Timson on 01462 892478 to make an appointment. The school website is: <http://www.stjohns4.herts.sch.uk/index.html>

## **RC HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN**

Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518,

**Please remember in your prayers:**



We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, especially, Angela Gray, Mairead Kirke, and Dick Worbey. We remember those who have died recently; Betty Hororan, Maria Barker and Alberto & Agata Celes, all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Peter Francis; Isabella Brogden; Thomas Burke; Sr. Ailbe O'Callaghan; Annie Bartram; Nicholas D'Addario; Mary Anne Draper; Catherine Stormont; Edith Smith; Norman Tuthill; John Johnson and Jean Harrington.

## **CHURCHES FINANCES & COLLECTION**

A word of thanks to all those people who have donated for the upkeep of the Parish in one way or another. There are several ways to support the Parish. One of them is via a standing order, which is easy to set up and easy to stop, if you want to, when this difficult period has passed. Please use the bank account details from our website below to set up the standing order if you use online banking, or you can also write to, telephone or visit your bank as well. You can also donate via the website. Or, of course, you can contribute after mass in the Collection Plates provided.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock/donate/>.

*Fr. Denis would like to thank everyone for their generosity during this time of pandemic*

The Wednesday Word is now available on this link page:

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

NEWSLETTER -If there is anything you would like to see included in the newsletter, please email the following address by Tuesday evening of the week you would like to see it in print: [baldock.rcc@ntlworld.com](mailto:baldock.rcc@ntlworld.com).